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BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc.
333 Commerce Street
Suite 2101
Nashville, TN 37201-3300

guy.hicks@bellsouth.com

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T.R.A. DOCKET ROOM
October 20, 2003

Guy M. Hicks
General Counsel

615 214 6301
Fax 615 214 7406

VIA HAND DELIVERY

Hon. Deborah Taylor Tate, Chairman
Tennessee Regulatory Authority
460 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, TN 37238

Re: *Implementation of the Federal Communications Commission's
Triennial Review Order (Nine-month Proceeding) (Hot Cuts)*
Docket No. 03-00526

Dear Chairman Tate:

BellSouth appreciates your offer to conduct a regional mediation of the batch hot cut process. While BellSouth is unsure about how a regional process could be recognized by other state commissions, BellSouth is eager to assist in any process that would help the Authority and other parties to understand BellSouth's hot cut process, which is the same throughout BellSouth's region.

To this end, BellSouth suggests, consistent with your letter of October 10, 2003, that Tennessee host a one-day workshop, during which any attendee would have the opportunity, in a non-litigation setting, to ask informational questions and learn about BellSouth's hot cut process. In order to ensure that this workshop proceeded in a truly non-adversarial manner, BellSouth believes that it would be helpful for you to officiate at the workshop. BellSouth has no objection to carriers or interested persons from other states participating in the workshop. BellSouth believes that a very informative workshop could be conducted within a one-day time frame, avoiding any scheduling issues that could affect the schedules for TRO proceedings through BellSouth's nine-state region.

BellSouth's experience in Tennessee regarding TRA-sponsored mediation has been very positive. Particularly given the 271 settlement, BellSouth believes that it is always fruitful to explore the opportunity to reach a resolution through discussion rather than litigation. While BellSouth is unable to suggest a regional process for mediation of this issue, BellSouth believes that a Tennessee-sponsored workshop chaired by you would be of great benefit to all concerned.

Hon. Deborah Taylor Tate
October 20, 2003
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Copies of the enclosed are being provided to counsel of record.

Very truly yours,



Guy M. Hicks

GMH:ch

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☒ Electronic

Ms. Carol Kuhnow
Qwest Communications, Inc.
4250 N. Fairfax Dr.
Arlington, VA 33303
Carol.kuhnow@qwest.com

☐ Hand
☐ Mail
☐ Facsimile
☐ Overnight
☒ Electronic

Jon E. Hastings, Esquire
Boult, Cummings, et al.
P. O. Box 198062
Nashville, TN 37219-8062
jhastings@boultcummings.com

☐ Hand
☐ Mail
☐ Facsimile
☐ Overnight
☒ Electronic

Dale Grimes, Esquire
Bass, Berry & Sims
315 Deaderick St., #2700
Nashville, TN 37238-3001
dgrimes@bassberry.com

☐ Hand
☐ Mail
☐ Facsimile
☐ Overnight
☒ Electronic

Mark W. Smith, Esquire
Strang, Fletcher, et al.
One Union Square, #400
Chattanooga, TN 37402
msmith@sf-firm.com

☐ Hand
☐ Mail
☐ Facsimile
☐ Overnight
☒ Electronic

Nanette S. Edwards, Esquire
ITC^DeltaCom
4092 South Memorial Parkway
Huntsville, AL 35802
nedwards@deltacom.com

